



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Sanctuary Office Report



Volume 6, Number 1

A REPORT FOR THE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

REPORTING PERIOD: FEBRUARY 2, 2008 – MARCH 30, 2009

ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

Designated in 1992, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS or Sanctuary) is a federally protected marine area offshore of California's central coast. Stretching from Marin to Cambria, the MBNMS encompasses a shoreline of 276 miles and 6,094 square statute miles of ocean.

Supporting one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems, it is home to numerous mammals, seabirds, fishes, invertebrates and plants in a remarkably productive coastal environment. The MBNMS was established for the purpose of resource protection, research, education and public use of this national treasure.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) AND OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES (ONMS) NEWS

The National Marine Sanctuary System Releases their 2008-2009 Accomplishments Report

Threats like pollution, marine debris, habitat destruction and climate change are endangering some of our most precious ocean treasures. Entire ecosystems are in peril of collapse.

Today, perhaps as never before, our National Marine Sanctuary System is part of a larger means to address the fundamental problems confronting the nation. National marine sanctuaries protect special marine areas, and also help build communities encouraging Americans to find common ground and reach collective solutions of nationwide significance.

This report looks back on the accomplishments over the past year. As busy and productive as 2008 was, 2009 brings with it a host of new challenges and opportunities. This report begins our dialogue with you: our exploration of how we can move forward together, making solutions part of our daily lives. The men and women of the national marine sanctuaries work tirelessly to make the sanctuary system a leader in preserving our ocean resources, as well as a leader in addressing the challenges threatening our quality of life. Please download the entire report by visiting <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/>.

Briefing to German Embassy on the Three Sunken German U-Boats

On Tuesday, March 03, 2009 David Alberg and Joe Hoyt presented a briefing to the German Embassy on the findings of last summer's archaeological survey on the sites of three sunken German U-boats off the North Carolina coast. The meeting was attended by representatives from NOAA GC, the State Department, the Justice Department, The Navy, and the United States Coast Guard. The meeting focused on the current condition of the three sites, which remain the sovereign property of the German Government and are considered war graves. Additionally, the meeting touched on ways the Sanctuary Program and the Federal Government might offer greater protection for these sites under the Sunken Military Craft Act or through some other means. The meeting was very positive, and NOAA's work on these three sites was greatly appreciated by the German Government.

NOAA Offers New Online Media Library Featuring Ocean-Related Photos and Videos

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has launched a new online multimedia library offering public access to thousands of high-resolution, ocean-related photos and videos taken by NOAA scientists, educators, divers and archaeologists. The National Marine Sanctuaries Media Library (<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/photos>) is a comprehensive database containing a collection of high-quality still images and video footage featuring all 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. The database is fully searchable by keyword, category and location, and all the images are tagged with relevant information including resolution and usage rights.

The media library is part of a continuing NOAA effort to enhance public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the marine environment. It was created to provide a resource for numerous audiences, including students, educators, publishers, conservation organizations and individuals looking for compelling marine-related images.

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS

Flower Garden Banks NMS

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS) is working with NOAA Coastal Development Data Center (NCDDC) to develop an Internet portal to make FGBNMS and regional geo-referenced information accessible to the public. The website will go live in the next few weeks, with the first data layers bathymetric data, boundaries, buoys, etc.). FGBNMS will continue to feed datasets to NCDDC for posting. This will be an exciting addition to the web offerings for the FGBNMS. The website will make use of Google Map type imagery, arcIMS technology, and JAVA applications that will allow for animation style presentations of long term data. NCDDC will also offer a summer internship position to prepare the FGBNMS datasets for posting. Joe Stinus, Rost Parsons, Sharon Mesick, and Betsy Gardner are the leads for the NCDDC.

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary joined forces with other marine conservation organizations on O'ahu to offer the second Ocean Awareness Training on Oahu. This six-session course provides multi-disciplinary knowledge of Hawai'i's unique marine environment. The Ocean Awareness Training is recommended for those volunteering or working in the field of marine education or tourism or for those interested in doing so. Ninety participants attended this session's first class which started on March 6, 2009 in Waikiki. This program is modeled after a program that began on Maui in 2006. Participants are required to attend each of the six sessions and take part in one field project in order to receive C.O.R.A.L. certification (Care of our Culture, Oceans, Reefs and Animals).

Olympic Coast NMS

A milestone for *Navigating the Future*, the management plan review process at Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, was accomplished when the Advisory Council completed a two-day facilitated workshop to review and prioritize topics identified in public scoping meetings. All but one Council seat were represented at the workshop, and several public comments were received each day. In a letter to the sanctuary Superintendent, the Council forwarded recommendations for priority topics that should be addressed through management plan review. There was a high degree of alignment between the highest priority topics identified by the Advisory Council and six preliminary priority issues advanced by the Intergovernmental Policy Council and sanctuary at the start of public scoping process.

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

PMNM resource protection specialist Scott Godwin met with NCCOS biologist Charles Menza and various local experts in invasive algae and octocorals, as well as researchers at NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center-Coral Reef Ecosystem Division involved in benthic habitat classification in the PMNM. NCCOS is working with PMNM to develop a deep-water sampling design to survey for the invasive red alga *Hypnea musciformis* and the invasive octocoral *Carijoa riisei*. Both species are abundant in the Main Hawaiian Islands and appear to be extending their ranges towards the southern end of the Monument. Technical diving to depths beyond 200' will be utilized to conduct these surveys.

Kelly Gleason and Kaylene Keller will conduct seven days of land-based mapping activities at Midway Atoll from January 30-February 7. Their work will focus on documenting sites associated with the Battle of Midway and World War II era Midway Atoll. Kaylene and Kelly will work alongside LouAnn Spuelda-Drews, archaeologist for USFWS who is also collaborating with Monument staff to document Battle of Midway related sites. Information gathered would contribute to a GIS database that will be developed into a management tool and eventually become a publicly accessible outreach tool. This work is part of a larger Battle of Midway database project funded in part by the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program.

Thunder Bay NMS

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary staff presented the new Thunder Bay Draft Management Plan to the sanctuary advisory council on Tuesday, February 24th. The draft was released on February 24th and is available to the public for comment until April 10th. The sanctuary will also hold public hearings to receive comments on the Draft Management Plan on March 18, 2009 (6:30 p.m.) in Rogers City, March 19, 2009 (6:30p.m.) in Harrisville, March 20, 2009 (2:00 p.m.) in Lansing, and March 24, 2009 (6:30) in Alpena. Written comments will also be accepted by mail to Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (Management Plan Review), 500 West Fletcher Street, Alpena, MI, 49707, by fax to (989) 354-0144, or by email to TBMPR@noaa.gov.



MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS AND PROGRAM UPDATES



MANAGEMENT

U. S. Treasury Department staff visits for financial conference and whale watching tour

MBNMS staff presented to the US Treasury Department's San Francisco Advisory Board on March 11th at the Marriott Hotel. Fifty folks received an orientation on the ONMS and MBNMS as a warm up to a naturalist led cruise on the Monterey Bay in the afternoon, aboard the Monterey Bay Whale Watch charter.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING

IOOS Observations Registry moves toward integration with other data systems

SIMoN staff held conference calls on January 26 and January 30 with advisers to the Integrated Ocean Observing Systems (IOOS) Observations Registry Project from NOAA's Coastal Services Center, and the IOOS program office. The IOOS Observations Registry (<http://obsregistry.org/map2009/map.php>) gathers the local ocean observing record sets on a 24-hour basis into a national aggregate and is made available through an interactive mapping application. The purpose of the teleconferences was to identify priorities and strategies for information exchange between the Registry and other systems such as NOAA's Observing System Monitoring Center (OSMC). These are the initial steps toward the goal of integration with emerging metadata standards and parallel data synthesis efforts to enhance the overall utility of the Registry system for data users.

Report on invasive kelp management submitted to NOAA Restoration Center

On January 28, SIMoN staff provided the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation with a final report on management of the invasive Asian kelp, *Undaria pinnatifida*, which invaded the Monterey Harbor in 2001. In 2006 funding from the NOAA Restoration Center supported the *Undaria* Management Program (UMP), which uses staff and volunteers to monitor and manage the spread of this invader. Funds were used to hire a part-time UMP Coordinator for 2.5 yr and support a Moss Landing Marine Labs graduate student studying the life history of *Undaria* in Monterey. The 50-page report summarizes all aspects of the UMP, including research, removals, and outreach. The NOAA Restoration Center is the "only office within NOAA solely devoted to restoring the nation's coastal, marine, and migratory fish habitats. The Restoration Center works with a wide array of partners to restore mangrove, salt marsh, seagrass, oyster, coral reef, kelp forest, and river habitats."

Mussel Watch and Moss Landing Power Plant Thermal Outfall Studies

The NOAA's Mussel Watch Program is one of the most comprehensive monitoring programs of its kind, with sampling sites in all coastal states and the great lakes. It is also one of the oldest coastal water quality monitoring programs, having begun in 1986. In 2006, additional sampling sites were added to the Monterey Bay area to investigate any impacts the Moss Landing Power Plant (MLPP) thermal plume may be having on water quality. The California Department of Fish and Game completed sampling and have released initial analysis of the tissue samples collected near the MLPP. SIMoN staff was then able to conduct a preliminary assessment, comparing Mussel Watch tissue samples to MLPP tissue samples. The analysis shows that the tissue samples collected near the MLPP exhibited a higher concentration of cadmium than tissue samples from original Mussel Watch sites, although it has not yet been determined why or if that difference is statistically significant.

Mass Stranding of Marine Birds Caused by a Surfactant-Producing Red Tide

During November-December 2007 Beach COMBERS volunteers reported a higher than usual deposition of seabirds on Monterey Bay beaches. Data collected by the volunteers was used in a study that linked this mortality event with foam containing surfactant-like proteins, derived from organic matter of a red tide. The foam coated the bird feathers and neutralized natural water repellency and insulation. Results of this study are now published in the online scientific journal PLoS ONE at <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0004550#aff1>. Beach COMBERS, funded by the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN), is a collaborative effort between the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, the California Department of Fish and Game Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care and Research Center, and other state and research institutions, with the specific goal of using deposition of beach cast carcasses as an index of the health of the sanctuary.

SIMoN staff improves regional ocean data discovery system

Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN) staff spent two weeks in February developing the OceanObs system (<http://www.oceanobs.org/>) in partnership with the Central & Northern California Ocean Observing Systems (CeNCOOS) group. CeNCOOS is a regional organization that coordinates ocean observing activities to improve understanding and management of marine systems. OceanObs is a versatile information management and data discovery system that supports the CeNCOOS mission by providing access to information from regional ocean observing programs, such as data products or the locations of sensors. The recent collaboration between CeNCOOS and SIMoN has resulted in new query options and enhanced performance of the OceanObs system.

Algal Bloom Linked to 2007 Seabird Stranding Event

After a thorough investigation funded in part by NOAA's Monitoring and Event Response for Harmful Algal Blooms program, researchers from the California Department of Fish and Game, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, and Moss Landing Marine Laboratories have concluded that a bloom of dinoflagellate known to scientists as *Akashiwo sanguinea* was responsible for the most recent mass-stranding event of seabirds in Monterey Bay. Volunteers from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Beach COMBERS (Coastal Ocean Mammal/Bird Education and Research Surveys) program were responsible for finding many of the dead birds and providing data to researchers. While *A. sanguinea* did not produce any biotoxins during this particular bloom, it did produce a detergent like protein that dissolved the natural oils found in the feathers of seabirds. This in turn prevented the birds from flying, hunting, and keeping warm. In all, 550 birds were found stranded, while 207 were found dead.

Five birds added to SIMoN species database

On March 5, Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN) volunteer Carol Maehr added another bird, the American White Pelican, to the SIMoN species database. Carol has volunteered dozens of hours over the past three months compiling information from print and on-line field guides, then distills them into a concise description and natural history overview. This referenced summary information is entered into the SIMoN species database, which dynamically generates publicly accessible summary postings for each species (go to: <http://www.sanctuariesimon.org/species/index.php>). Carol's expertise is with marine birds and mammals, and in addition to the American White Pelican, she has published species summaries for the Black-footed Albatross, Laysan Albatross, Great Egret, and Pelagic Cormorant. The SIMoN Species Database serves as an on-line reference guide for ONMS staff and the public, providing key features to ID organisms, as well as links to the SIMoN Photo Library, with nearly 3000 digital images and video.

SIMoN staff provides update to UCSC Diving Safety Board

On March 16, SIMoN staff provided an update on recent NOAA Diving policy changes to the Diving Safety Board (DSB) at the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC). SIMoN staff has had a seat on the UCSC DSB since 2006 and attends quarterly meetings. Staff discussed recent changes in NOAA diving policy and how it would impact operations off the R/V FULMAR. The MBNMS and SIMoN collaborate extensively with UCSC Science Divers, and each year hundreds of scientific dives are completed aboard the FULMAR. UCSC Dive Safety Officer Steve Clabuesch also reported on the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) annual meeting and noted the increased participation of NOAA staff, and in particular from ONMS during the symposium. Membership by SIMoN staff on the DSB further links the programs and ensures seamless integration of University and NOAA policy, heightens safety awareness, and increases overall efficiency.

USS Macon Expeditions Featured in PBS Program "Zeppelins Resurrected"

On March 17, the TV story "Zeppelins Resurrected" aired on KQED's QUEST series (PBS, San Francisco). The program featured the USS *Macon*, a 785-foot dirigible, lost offshore of Point Sur on February 12, 1935 when she foundered tail first into the chilly waters of the Pacific Ocean. In 2005, a team of scientists onboard the NOAA research vessel *McArthur II* conducted a side scan sonar survey in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary at the wreck site of USS *Macon*. In 2006, the scientists revisited the wreck site to photo mosaic the debris fields, and identify artifacts at the site. Sanctuary Staff provided KQED with images from the 2005 USS *Macon* Expedition, and the MBNMS website featuring the 2005 and 2006 USS *Macon* expeditions. For information on the USS *Macon* expeditions see <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/research/macon/welcome.html>. For information on the KQED program see <http://www.kqed.org/quest/television/zeppelins-resurrected>.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Harbormaster meeting at MBNMS

As part of an outreach effort related to the unveiling of the new MBNMS regulations, slated to go into effect in March, MBNMS staff hosted a meeting on 02/27/09 with Harbormasters from all four harbors adjacent to the sanctuary. The discussion centered on a suite of regulatory issues including: abandoned vessels, cruise ships, marine sanitation devices, motorized personal watercraft, and introduced

species. The meeting was successful in that there was an open dialogue centered around mutual understanding of the issues, and identification of opportunities for possible collaborations related to outreach

Monterey County Integrated Regional Water Management Program Meeting

On January 27, 2009 Water Quality Protection Program staff hosted a planning committee meeting for the Monterey County Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP). This group of local government, academic, and conservation organizations are developing an IRWMP Plan, which is required by the CA Dept. of Water Resources to receive a portion of the \$52M allocated to the Central Coast from Proposition 84. There are six IRWMP regions on the Central Coast from Santa Cruz to Santa Barbara counties. All of the plans contain projects identified as strategies in the WQPP Action Plans.

MBNMS Supports Use of “Environmentally Acceptable” Food Containers

On February 3, MBNMS staff attended the Monterey City Council meeting and testified in support of a proposed ordinance to require the use of "environmentally acceptable" single-use food containers. The City Council unanimously passed the ordinance and will take effect in six months. The ordinance bans the use of polystyrene (Styrofoam) for single-use food containers. Several cities locally and many throughout the State of California have adopted similar ordinances in an effort to reduce coastal litter. The state of California's Ocean Protection Council is recommending a statewide ban on polystyrene food containers and plastic bags.

West coast NOAA meet to clarify ONMS permit and NMFS survey requirements

Based on a few disconnects experienced in the summer field season of 2008, staff from all west coast sanctuaries (permit coordinators, research coordinators, and resource protection coordinators) met with scientists from NMFS SWFSC and NWFSC to clarify ONMS permit and NMFS survey requirements. The honest and positive exchange of information and ideas underscored the importance of early and frequent communication among programs to enhance understanding and collaborations. Additionally, participants produced a meaningful list of activities to assist with 1) clarifying and increasing consistency in NMFS surveys and ONMS permit process, 2) streamlining the permit process, and 3) creating tools/opportunities for more collaborative research and outreach on the west coast. The meeting was held at the NMFS lab in Santa Cruz with videoconference and WebEx connections to La Jolla and Seattle on February 10, 2009.

Guidance for vertical zoning in MPAs featured in *Fisheries* and *MPA News*

For the first time MPA managers now have science-based guidelines for considerations of vertical zoning to help manage pelagic fishing in multiple use MPAs that focus on conservation of benthic communities and resources. MBNMS resource protection specialist Lisa Wooninck co-authored with other NOAA scientists a paper featured in the December 2008 journal *Fisheries* and the February 2009 issue of *MPA News* entitled “Vertical Zoning in Marine Protected Areas: Ecological Considerations for Balancing Pelagic Fishing with Conservation of Benthic Communities”. The paper identifies ecological conditions (e.g. depth, fish mobility) for which vertical zoning and pelagic fishing, may or may not be suitable without significant impacts to benthic ecosystems. To see a copy of the article, go to www.fisheries.org/afs/docs/fisheries/fisheries_3312.pdf.

Big Sur Wildfire Water Monitoring Continues

On February 7th, Water Quality Protection Program staff and four volunteers sampled storm water runoff in eight creeks in Big Sur watersheds affected by the 2008 wildfires. This study, funded by the SIMoN program, will compare historical nutrient concentrations with post-fire nutrient and turbidity concentrations. The data will be shared with partners at USGS and UCSC. After several rain events this winter, totally approximately 12" of rain, the Big Sur River was murky, but the other smaller watersheds were running very clear and at normal height. There was no sign of any recent mudslides resulting from the fires.

Multi-agency proposal to support Central Coast irrigation and nutrient management

The MBNMS Agriculture Water Quality Coordinator (in collaboration with the Central Coast Resource Conservation & Development Council) facilitated the development of a multi-agency proposal to support irrigation and nutrient management in priority watersheds on California's Central Coast. The project aims to achieve the interrelated objectives of conserving the Central Coast's limited water supply and improving the quality of agricultural runoff to restore beneficial uses of local waterways and the Monterey Bay. The proposal brings together 11 partner agencies and organizations across six sub-regions (Coastal San Mateo County, Upper Pajaro River, Lower Pajaro, Lower Salinas River, Santa Maria River, and Coastal San Luis Obispo watersheds). If selected through a national competitive process, this project would bring to the region nearly \$5.8 million dollars of federal Farm Bill funding available through the new “Agricultural Water Enhancement Program” (AWEP). These funds would go directly to producers to provide financial assistance for field evaluations, technical assistance and cost share to implement improved irrigation and nutrient management practices over four years. Several existing sub-regional irrigation and nutrient management programs would provide critical education, outreach, and project management support to the AWEP project.

Potential Lost Fishing Gear Locations Prioritized for Fulmar Cruise

On March 16, staff from MBNMS, SeaDoc Society and the California Department of Fish and Game met at Belmont CDFG office to review various data sets indicating locations of lost fishing gear. In particular, we focused on selecting and prioritizing lost gear targets to groundtruth and survey for the April 13-17th R/V FULMAR cruise utilizing side scan sonar. Additionally, we discussed potential locations in rocky, deepwater habitats for ROV reconnaissance cruises in Fall 2009.

WQPP Staff Monitor Storm Water Runoff in Pacific Grove

On March 2nd, Water Quality Protection Program staff sampled storm water runoff at the Greenwood Park outfall in Pacific Grove, CA. Through a contract with the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation, they were hired by a Southern California consulting firm to monitor water quality and flow during two rain events as part of a feasibility study to collect and treat urban runoff in an existing abandoned reservoir in Pacific Grove. The stored water will then be used for irrigation of parks and golf courses.

Conservation Working Group meeting

The Conservation Working Group met on March 17th for their bi-monthly meeting. The topics of discussion during the two hour meeting ranged from: agriculture issues, hotel development, desalination, single use food containers, plastic bag legislation, MPA processes, ocean acidification, storm water, offshore energy, Coastal Commission appointees, Congressional funding allocations, enforcement issues, sea otter health, coastal erosion, and dead deer. CWG leaders will be meeting with the Superintendent shortly to request assistance in better defining their focus and role.

Sanctuary Staff advise on TNC Conservation and Food Safety Project

On March 24, the MBNMS Agriculture Water Quality Coordinator participated in the first of several Advisory Committee meetings for The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Farm Conservation and Food Safety Project. Funded by Georgetown University's Produce Safety Project, TNC seeks to develop an objective report summarizing and assessing the food safety and resource conservation "co-management" challenges on California's Central Coast. The TNC project will produce a valuable communications tool outlining the current conditions on the ground to move forward discussions with buyers and auditors to resolve food safety/environment conflicts locally. The report will also inform policymakers on the national level where 12 or more food safety related bills are expected to be taken up by Congress in 2009. The Advisory Committee consists of representatives from various sectors of the agricultural industry, non-regulatory government conservation agencies, environmental groups, and the scientific community. The role of the Advisory Committee is to provide input to ensure that the report is comprehensive, balanced, and credible.

Clean Boating Network Returns to the Central Coast

On Thursday, March 26th, Save Our Shores hosted a meeting of the Central Coast Clean Boating Network. The group organizes one-on-one boater education regarding water quality, marine debris and clean boating practices. They also promote bilge and sewer pumpout services in all of the local harbors.

Enforcement

Sanctuary Staff Complete HAZWOPER training in Monterey

March 18-20, eleven Sanctuary Staff completed 24-hour, or 8-hour refresher, Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) certification training in Monterey, CA. The knowledge and skills learned will be used for responding to small boat groundings and larger oil spills.

EDUCATION, VOLUNTEER AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

MERITO Academy introduces 89 students to the MBNMS

During the month of January 2009, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO) program kicked off its MERITO Academy with 89 students at four sites in Del Rey Woods, Seaside and Watsonville. During the 2008-2009 academic year, 23 MERITO Academy programs are running at 18 sites in the cities of Marina, Seaside, Salinas, Pajaro, Monterey, Watsonville, and Freedom to deliver the 40-week MERITO Academy to an estimated 470 historically underserved students in the Monterey Bay Area. This sanctuary and BWET funded program provides hands-on, inquiry based watershed and ocean science experiences for 5th to 8th grade students who are predominately English language learners. Activities included an introduction to the MBNMS and watershed model demonstration.

MBNMS and NMSF Staff Meet with Seymour Center's Executive Director

Superintendent Paul Michel, Education Coordinator Dawn Hayes and Visitor Center Coordinator Lisa Uttal and National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Development representative Mark Diorio met with Julie Barrett-Heffington, Executive Director of the University of California Santa Cruz's Long Marine Laboratory Seymour Center to discuss their current and anticipated Visitor Center programs and ways for future collaboration. The Exploration Center plans to bring more visitors to the Seymour Center through mutual marketing, joint education programs and the other opportunities that would mutually benefit both programs.

Docent Meeting Held to Advise on Coastal Discovery Center

Docents for the Coastal Discovery Center at San Simeon Bay meet on Friday February 6th to discuss center operations, school group planning, grant opportunities, training and enrichment schedules and event planning. This group is critical to the smooth operations of the center and has been very organized in the absence of a regular MBNMS staff person in the southern region. MBNMS staff has been staffing the office each Friday of the month, in order to interface with docents and state parks staff during the recruitment process.

Preserve America Grant Requests Submitted

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Education Staff submitted two NOAA Preserve America Initiative grants and partnered on a third in an effort to improve the maritime heritage offerings of the sanctuary. Proposals covered the documentation and story development surrounding a historic mill port (dog-hole) and a recently discovered anchor at Notley's Landing in Big Sur, video development related to the Voices in the Bay fisheries curriculum and historic maritime signage at Monterey Harbor.

Ocean for Life Field Experience Planning

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Education Staff and partner SEA Lab Monterey Bay have completed the preliminary plan for students and adults associated with the Ocean for Life 2009 program. The 5-day program meshes with the 5 day plan developed by the Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones NMSs and will be MBNMS' first field experience. This plan will change some based on the needs of the National Geographic Society's film project and cultural needs of participants, but represents the breadth of programming students will receive during this important cultural exchange program. MBNMS MERITO staff will be involved with program development and delivery.

REI to Host 10th Anniversary of Snapshot Day

On February 26th, WQPP staff met with a representative of REI in Marina to discuss using the store location as a hub for the 10th Anniversary Snapshot Day event on May 2nd, 2009. The hub serves as the central meeting place for volunteers before and after water collection at 66 sites in Monterey County. Approximately 170 sites are monitored overall in the sanctuary-wide event. Local representatives, mayors, and dignitaries start the event off with words of encouragement and thanks for the volunteers.

Sanctuary Staff Meet with UCSC's Chancellor George Blumenthal

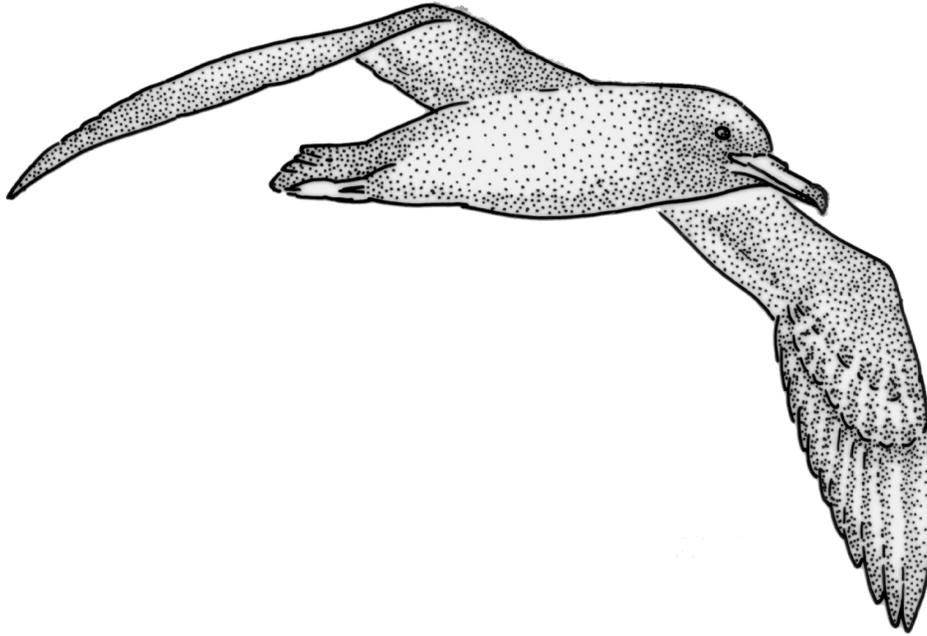
Bill Douros (West Coast Regional Office), Mark D'iorio (National Sanctuary Foundation) and Lisa Uttal (Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary) met with UC Santa Cruz Chancellor George Blumenthal to brief him on the NOAA Santa Cruz Sanctuary's Exploration Center, including NOAA's progress to date, visitor experience and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation's development efforts. Also present were UCSC's Institute of Marine Science Director Gary Griggs and Long Marine Laboratory Seymour Center's Executive Director Julie Barrett Heffington. Discussions about how the two organizations can collaborate were continued, as well as a reaffirmation of support by UCSC for the Exploration Center.

Team OCEAN Training

Training for the 2009 season of Team OCEAN Kayaker Naturalist and Bay Net Shoreline Naturalist Programs has started on March 18th and will continue until May 6th. The eight weeks of training includes lectures on topics such as oceanography, ornithology, interpretation, marine mammalogy and local history. Volunteers with both programs interact with locals and visitors to the Monterey Bay area and inform them of local wildlife, natural history and precautions to take to protect sensitive wildlife.

Volunteers Enjoy a Day on the Bay

On Saturday, March 28th, fifty-two volunteers from TeamOCEAN, BayNet, and the Watershed Monitoring Network enjoyed a day on the R/V Fulmar. They were entertained by a couple of humpback whales and numerous sea otters. Several people had never been out on the Monterey Bay so it was extra special. All were very appreciative and enjoyed the beautiful day.



SIGNIFICANT NEWS COVERAGE

- 2/2 – KCBA, “Google Goes From the Earth to The Ocean with the Help of The Aquarium”
- 2/2 – Salinas Californian, “Monterey Bay Aquarium helps launch new ocean exploration in Google Earth”
- 2/3 – Zoo and Aquarium Visitor, “Monterey Bay Aquarium Invites You To Explore The Bay Through Google Earth”
- 2/9 – National Geographic Channel, “Flying Aircraft Carrier”
- 2/10 – California Chronicle, “Lt. Governor Garamendi Calls for Ban on Environmentally Destructive Styrofoam Containers”
- 2/11 – Science Mode, “Seamounts may serve as refuges for deep-sea animals that struggle to survive elsewhere”
- 2/12 – California Chronicle, “Garamendi Calls on California to Follow Central Coast's Lead Banning Some Containers”
- 2/13 – Santa Cruz Sentinel, “Climate change delaying gray whale vacations, scientists say”
- 2/13 – Salinas Californian, “Dirigible flights honor Macon”
- 2/14 – Journal Watch, “A Seamount a Dozen”
- 2/18 – Santa Cruz Sentinel, “As We See It: Federal government needs to permit breach of Aptos Creek lagoon”
- 2/19 – Deep Sea News, “Seamount Life Is Unique Just Not In the Way We Thought”
- 2/19 – Monterey County Herald, “Scientists See Movement of Marine Species”
- 2/21 – Santa Cruz Sentinel, “Coast Lines: Feb. 21, 2009-MBNMS”
- 2/24 – East Bay Express, “Building a Better Abalone”
- 2/25 – Oil & Gas Journal, “California US House members offer contrasting OCS proposals”

- 3/10 – Summit Daily News, “Salazar names Coloradan to Interior deputy post”
- 3/10 – Colorado Independent, “Salazar taps Shafroth for fish, wildlife and parks deputy post at Interior”
- 3/13 – Monterey County Herald, “Briefs: Hospitality group to honor Bekker”
- 3/20 – Register Pajaronian, “50000th student on deck”
- 3/21 – examiner.com, “Monterey Bay -- The dividends of a solo retreat”
- 3/22 – Marin Independent Journal, “Marin Snapshot: Pioneering pilot is new Farallones association director”
- 3/25 – Altsounds.com, “VANS WARPED TOUR® 2009 Presented by AT&T”

WEB SITE (<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/>)

Recent Updates

Visit the web pages listed below to see recently updated sections of the MBNMS web site.

- New Sanctuary Regulations Took Effect March 9, 2009
http://montereybay.noaa.gov/intro/press_releases/press_releases.html#newregs
- Team OCEAN and Bay Net Classes Begin
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/educate/to/2009/030509flyer.pdf>

*Please take a few moments to peruse the site. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.
Comments and suggestions can be sent to andrew.white@noaa.gov.*

FUN, OCEAN RELATED WEB SITES

NOAA Online Media Library

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/photos>

Encyclopedia of the Sanctuaries

<http://www.ocean.com/Library/Encyclopedia/>

Oceans Live

<http://www.oceanslive.org/portal/>

SIMON

www.mbnms-simon.org

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science

<http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/>

NOAA Ocean Explorer

<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/>

National Data Buoy Center

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/rmd.shtml>

National Ocean Service

<http://www.nos.noaa.gov/>

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

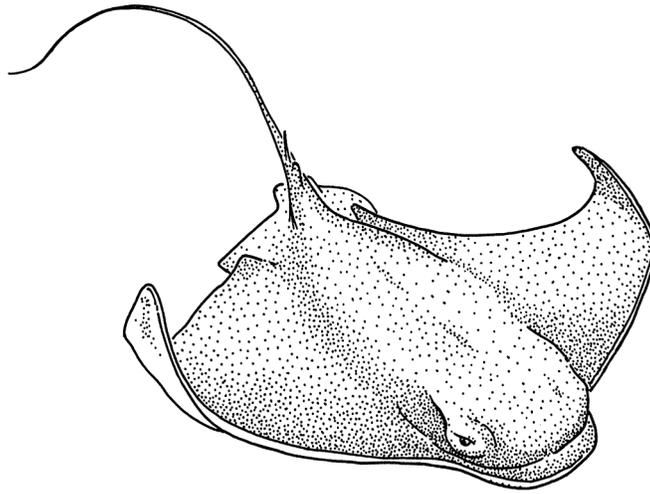
<http://www.noaa.gov/>

Thank You Ocean

<http://www.thankyouocean.org/>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

18-Apr	Currents Symposium and Reflection Awards. Contact Liz Love at (831) 647-4255
19-Apr	Snapshot Day Training- San Mateo
22-Apr	Team OCEAN/ Bay Net Training-6:30 MBNMS Conference Room
25-Apr	Snapshot Day Training-Santa Cruz
26-Apr	Snapshot Day Training-Monterey
29-Apr	Team OCEAN/ Bay Net Training- 6:30 MBNMS Conference Room
2-May	10th Anniversary Snapshot Day
6-May	Team OCEAN/ Bay Net Training's last night!-6:30 MBNMS Conference Room
8-May	Research Activity Panel Meeting, Long Marine Lab, UCSC. Contact Andrew DeVogelaere at (831) 647-4213.
22-May	Team OCEAN's first day on the water for 2009 season
30-May	Urban Watch Training- Capitola
31-May	Urban Watch Training- Monterey and PG
19-Jun	Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting, Carmel Valley. Contact Nicole Capps at (831) 647-4206
10-Jul	Research Activity Panel Meeting, NOAA Fisheries, Santa Cruz. Contact Andrew DeVogelaere at (831) 647-4213.
21-Aug	Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting, Santa Cruz. Contact Nicole Capps at (831) 647-4206
11-Sep	Research Activity Panel Meeting, Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove. Contact Andrew DeVogelaere at (831) 647-4213.
16-Oct	Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting, Cambria. Contact Nicole Capps at (831) 647-4206
13-Nov	Research Activity Panel Meeting, MBARI, Moss Landing. Contact Andrew DeVogelaere at (831) 647-4213.
11-Dec	Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting, Monterey. Contact Nicole Capps at (831) 647-4206



Learn More About Your Sanctuary

The Sanctuary Office Report is produced bi-monthly by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in conjunction with Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings. To learn more about the Sanctuary please visit our web site at: <http://www.montereybay.noaa.gov>.

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:
<http://www.montereybay.noaa.gov/intro/advisory.html>

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is one of 14 marine protected areas in the National Marine Sanctuary System that encompass more than 150,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington State to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The system includes 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Visit the ONMS web site at: <http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

Get involved and stay informed!

To learn how to get involved in the Sanctuary visit:
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/educate/internship.html>

Sign up for the MBNMS listserv to receive email notices about upcoming Sanctuary events, and public meetings of the Sanctuary Advisory Council and its Working Groups:
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/discussiongroups/disgroups.html>.



MBNMS Staff

Paul Michel – Superintendent
Karen Grimmer – Deputy Superintendent
Andrew DeVogelaere – Research Coordinator
Erica Burton – Research Assistant
Jennifer Brown – Research Associate
Steve Lonhart – SIMoN Scientist
Jean de Marignac – Field Scientist
Chad King – SIMoN Data Analyst
Gary Conley – SIMoN Water Quality Analyst
Steve Choy – SeaGrant Fellow
Dawn Hayes – Education & Outreach Coordinator
Liz Love – Education Specialist
Sonya Padron – Bilingual Education Specialist
Lisa Uttal – Visitor Center Project Manager
Mike Eng – Resource Protection Coordinator
Scott Kathey – Regulatory Coordinator
Deirdre Hall – Permit Coordinator
Brad Damitz – Environmental Policy Specialist
Lisa Lurie – Agriculture Water Quality Coordinator
Bridget Hoover – WQ Protection Program Director
Lisa Emanuelson – Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network Coordinator
Lisa de Marignac – Environmental Policy Specialist
Lisa Wooninck – Resource Protection Specialist
Raymond Chisolm – Program Specialist
Nicole Capps – Advisory Council Coordinator
Christian Walters – Administrative Assistant
Andrew White – Network Manager
Sophie De Beukelaer – GIS Analyst
David Minard – R/V Fulmar Captain
Hans Burning – R/V Fulmar Operator
Erik Larson – R/V Fulmar Operator

- Contact Information -

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

299 Foam Street
Monterey, CA 93940
Phone (831) 647-4201
Fax (831) 647-4250